

What's Up, Doc? †

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This document tells you what objects are visible this next month for many of the Astronomical League Clubs. If you are working on one of the more advanced club, then I assume that you are tracking where your objects are all the time. I have concentrated on the common and starter level clubs. This information is based on 9 PM.

Naked-Eye Clubs

Meteors – any night, any time, anywhere, the darker the sky the better.

<u>Shower</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Type</u>
Perseids	7/23 to 8/22	8/12 @ 9:00	MAJOR
Northern Iota Aquarids	8/11 to 9/10	8/25 & 8/26	Moderate
Southern Iota Aquarids	7/1 to 9/18	8/6 & 8/7	Moderate
Alpha Capricornids	7/15 to 9/11	8/1 & 8/2	Moderate
Northern Delta Aquarids	7/16 to 9/10	8/13 to 8/14	Moderate
Kappa Cygnids	7/26 to 9/1	8/18	Moderate
August Eridanids	8/2 to 8/27	8/11 & 8/12	minor
Upsilon Pegasids	7/25 to 8/19	8/8 & 8/9	minor
Alpha Ursa Majorids	8/9 to 8/30	8/13 & 8/14	minor
Gamma Leonids	8/14 to 9/12	8/25 & 8/26	daylight

Constellation Hunter, Northern Skies (and some Southern Skies) – any night, any time, anywhere, the darker the sky the better.

Last Chance this cycle: Ursa Major, Leo Minor, Coma Berenices, Virgo.

Transit: Ursa Minor, Draco, Hercules, Corona Borealis, Serpens, Ophiuchus, Scorpions.

New arrivals: Lacerta, Cygnus, Pegasus, Capricornus, Sagittarius.

Binocular Clubs

Binocular Messier – Monthly highlights include:

Easy – 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 39, 52, 55, 92, 103.

Medium – 14, 19, 28, 40, 49, 53, 62, 63, 64, 80, 81, 82, 83, 94.

Hard – 9, 26, 51, 54, 56, 71, 75, 97, 101, 104, 106.

Big Binoculars – 58, 59, 60, 61, 69, 70, 72, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 99, 100, 102, 107, 108, 109.

Deep Sky Binocular – Monthly highlights include (by Astronomical League numbers):

1, 3, 4, 5, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60.

Other Clubs

Messier

In addition to those listed under Binocular Messier, check out: 21, 57, 73, 91, 98.

Caldwell

1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 42, 45, 47, 52, 55, 57, 66, 68, 69, 75, 76, 78, 81, 82.

Double Star (by Astronomical League numbers):

1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 26, 29, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 58, 60, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 74, 84, 86, 87, 88, 90, 91, 93, 94, 96, 97.

Other Clubs (of the Solar System)

Comets – down to magnitude 12:

C/2009 R1 McNaught (6), 10P/Tempel 2 (10), C2009 K5 McNaught (11).

Planetary – These are the tasks that can be done this month:

Sun – Any clear day is a good time to get those sunspots.

Moon:

The Maria requirement can be done any time the moon is visible. Look before 8/2 and after 8/16 for the fullest views.

The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.

The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 8/15 or 8/16.

The Scarps requirement is best done on 8/17.

Occultations occur all the time, the bright ones can be found on the internet. Objects disappear on the East side of the moon.

Asteroids – Course Plotting and Measuring Movement requirements can be done at any time on any asteroid. See above to identify the bright ones this month.

Mercury is in Leo and sets by 21:05, 60 minutes after sunset.

Venus is in Virgo and sets by 22:10.

Mars is in Virgo and sets by 22:20.

Dwarf Planet Ceres is in Gemini and rises at 03:20.

Jupiter is in Pisces and rises at 22:00.

Saturn is in Virgo and sets by 21:05. All requirements can be done when Saturn is visible: markings, moons, etc.

Uranus is in Pisces and rises at 21:45.

Neptune is in Aquarius and rises at 20:14.

Dwarf planet Pluto is in Sagittarius and sets at 03:20.

Lunar

Key timings are indicated below:

New, 8/9 4 days, 8/13 7 days, 8/16 10 days, 8/19 14 days, 8/23

Old moon in new moons arms – before 22:08 on 8/12, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New)

New moon in old moons arms – after 22:08 on 8/6, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New)

Waxing Crescent – before 14:08 on 8/11, ~4 % illuminated. (40 hr > New)

Waning Crescent – after 22:08 on 8/7, ~4 % illuminated. (48 hr < New)

Clubs Not Covered

* ARP Peculiar Galaxies

Constellation Hunter – South

* Galaxy Groups & Clusters

* Southern Skies Binocular

* Globular Clusters

* Southern Skies Telescope

* Earth Orbiting Satellites

* Universe Sampler

* Sky Puppies

* Urban

* Open Clusters

Sunspotters

Master Observer

* Herschel 400

* Herschel II

Lunar II

* Planetary Nebulae

* - Although these clubs are not detailed in this “**What’s Up Doc?**” handout, you can get information on many of their objects by using the “**What’s Up Tonight, Doc?**” spreadsheet (version 4.1). To get your copy, talk to the Doc, Aaron Clevenson, by sending an email to aaron@clevenson.org. It is also available on the club website.

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